

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT

Citizens are invited to comment on a proposed permit that will allow the release of treated wastewater from a regulated municipal activity into a waterway in Onancock, Virginia

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Until 4:30 PM 30 days from the first date of this public notice
(date to be inserted by newspaper)

PERMIT NAME: Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit. Owners or operators of facilities that discharge into Virginia waterways from a set location called a point source must apply for this permit.

NAME ADDRESS AND PERMIT NUMBER OF APPLICANT: Town of Onancock, 15 North Street, Onancock, VA 23417; VPDES VA0021253

NAME AND ADDRESS OF FACILITY: 23656 North Street, Onancock, VA

DISCHARGE LOCATION/RECEIVING STREAM/WATERSHED: Onancock, VA; North Branch Onancock Creek; Chesapeake Bay, Atlantic Ocean and Small Coastal watershed

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Town of Onancock has applied to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for the reissuance of an existing permit for treated domestic waste water discharges from the Onancock WWTP. The applicant proposes to discharge at a rate of 0.75 million gallons per day (MGD). This reissuance also requires modification of the Onancock Creek TMDL to reflect a change in the bacteria load associated with the discharge. The permit will limit the following pollutants to amounts that protect water quality – pH, TSS, CBOD, bacteria, copper, chlorine, ammonia, nitrogen, phosphorus. Generated sludge will be landfilled.

CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED REQUIREMENTS: This facility is subject to the requirements of 9 VAC 25-820 and has registered for coverage under the General VPDES Watershed Permit Regulation for Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus Discharges and Nutrient Trading in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed in Virginia.

MODIFICATION OF ONANCOCK CREEK TMDL: Total maximum daily load (TMDL) of bacteria was developed to address recreational use impairments in Onancock Creek watershed. This TMDL was approved by the Environmental Protection Agency on 8/2/06 and can be found at the following website:

http://gisweb.deq.virginia.gov/tmdlapp/tmdl_report_search.cfm. The permittee recently expanded the capacity of the WWTP from .25 to .75 MGD. Therefore, DEQ proposes to modify the wasteload allocation and TMDL to accommodate this expansion at a permitted enterococcus concentration of 35 n/cml, which is the same concentration allowed at the .25 MGD discharge rate. The above revisions would result in an increase in the total allocated bacteria load in the TMDL for Onancock Creek of approximately 29%.

TO COMMENT TO DEQ: via e-mail, fax or postal mail. You must include your name, address and telephone number plus the names and telephone numbers of any people you represent. DEQ must receive your comments during the comment period.

The public may review permit documents at the Tidewater Regional Office every work day by appointment. You may request a public hearing via e-mail, fax or postal mail during the comment period. Requests for hearings must include the reason for the hearing request, the nature of the issue(s) to be raised in the public hearing, your interest and how the facility affects you. DEQ may hold a public hearing, including another comment period, if public response is significant and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit.

CONTACT: Mark H. Sauer DEQ Tidewater Regional Office, 5636 Southern Blvd. Va. Beach 23462. Tel: 757-518-2105; Fax: 757-518-2009; E-mail: mark.sauer@deq.virginia.gov